

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A guide insertion device (8; 108) suitable for the insertion of a guide into a check valve made of a surgical material comprising a body (10; 110) delimiting a duct (12; 112) for guiding the guide, the duct being open at its two ends, the body having, from a first end of the duct, a slim cannula (14; 114) extending along the axis of the duct and suitable for being engaged through the check valve, characterized in that the body (10; 110) has a slot (24; 124) extending longitudinally along the length of the duct (12; 112) from one end to the other of this duct and opening into the duct (12; 112) along its whole length, in that the diameter of the duct (12; 112) along the length of the body (10; 110) increases progressively from the first end to the second end, and in that the outer surface of the cannula (14; 114) is generally frustoconical and flares progressively from said first end of the duct.

2. (original): The guide insertion device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the body (10; 110) is formed of a single monobloc piece.

3. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the cannula (14; 114) extends over a length 50% greater than the total length of the duct (12; 112).

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PCT/FR2004/000074, filed January 15, 2004

4. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterized in that the body (10; 110) comprises around the second end of the duct (12; 112) a divergent frustoconical wall (20; 120) axially extending said cannula (14; 114).

5. (original): The guide insertion device as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that said frustoconical wall (20; 120) internally delimits a centering cone (22; 122) whose maximal diameter lies between 1.5 and five times its minimal diameter.

6. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in claim 4 ~~or 5~~, characterized in that said frustoconical wall (20; 120) internally delimits a centering cone (22; 122) whose maximal diameter lies between 3 and 8 times the minimal diameter of the duct (12; 112).

7. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the minimal diameter of the duct (112) lies between 1.5 mm and 2.5 mm.

8. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the width of the slot (124) lies between 0.08 and 0.15 mm.

9. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of the minimal diameter of the duct (112) to the width of the slot (124) lies between 12 and 22.

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10. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that the minimal diameter of the duct (12) lies between 0.30 mm and 1 mm.

11. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 and 10~~claim 1, characterized in that the width of the slot (24) lies between 0.15 mm and 0.50 mm.

12. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6 and 11~~claim 1, characterized in that the ratio of the minimal diameter of the duct (12) to the width of the slot (24) lies between 5 and 9.

13. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the length of the duct (12; 112) lies between 7 cm and 13 cm.

14. (currently amended): The guide insertion device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the body (10; 110) has two internal bevels (28) made along the whole length of the slot (24; 124) between each of the opposite side walls of the slot (24; 124) and the surface of the duct (12; 112).